

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

ACDA-10 OES-06 COME-00 NASA-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

L-03 /060 W

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R 120440Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4913

INFO USDAO WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 413

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI OCLR FJ

SUBJ: US NAVY AIRCRAFT MAGNETISM SURVEY OVER FIJI

1. FIJI TIMES OF APRIL 10 CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY, TITLED
"MAGNETISM SURVEY:

"AN AMERICAN NAVY ORION PLANE IS CRISSCROSSING THE FIJI AND
TONGA AREAS LOOKING FOR MINUTE TRACES OF RESIDUAL MAGNETISM
IN THE EARTH'S CRUST.

"THE PLANCE IS FLYING FROM WHENUAPAI, IN NEW ZEALAND, AND IS
USING INSTRUMENTS TO DETECT MAGNETISM IN THE FIJI BASIN AND
KERMADEC-TONGA TRENCH.

"ONE OF THE SCIENTISTS WORKING IN THE PLANE, MR. R. FEDEN,
SAID THE WORK WAS PART OF A PROJECT TO STUDY THE UNDERGROUND
FORCES WHICH CAUSED THE FORMATION OF RIDGES, TRENCHES AND
BASINS ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

"THE ORION IS CARRYING ITS MISSION OUT AT AN AVERAGE HEIGHT
OF 1000 FT."

2. FIJI DIRECTOR OF MINERAL RESOURCES CONTACTED EMBASSY
APRIL 12 TO INQUIRE ABOUT SURVEY MENTIONED IN ARTICLE. HE
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SAID HE WAS UNAWARE THAT SURVEYORS HAD OBTAINED PERMISSION

TO CONDUCT OVERFLIGHTS. THIS APPEARS NOT TO BE DIFFICULTY,

BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ANY RESULTS GATHERED FROM SURVEY
OVER FIJI AND ADJOINING WATERS.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SURVEY SO THAT
WE CAN RESPOND TO GOF REQUEST.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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